



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

June 2006



NPSpecies Data Certification: Lists of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish have been certified for all 13 parks. The lists are available to NPS personnel who have NPSpecies access (if you do not have access contact Marcia Wilson of the I&M Program). Currently, vascular plant lists have been certified for Knife River Indian Villages NHS, Missouri NRR, and Mt. Rushmore NMEM. The I&M Program is still waiting on six parks to review their plant lists (Badlands NP, Devils Tower NM, Fort Laramie NHS, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, Theodore Roosevelt NP, and Wind Cave NP). The I&M Program is working on the plant lists for the remaining parks in the Network; once completed those lists will be sent to the parks for review. Please contact Marcia Wilson in regards to NPSpecies and species lists.

Phase II: Comments on Phase II of the Network monitoring plan were received from six parks (Devils Tower NM, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, Missouri NRR, Niobrara NSR, Scotts Bluff NM, and Wind Cave NP). All of the comments can easily be integrated into the draft plan. Therefore, it is anticipated that Phase II will be submitted to the Midwest Regional Office in early July.

New Hires: Tim Schumacher was hired under a STEP authority as a temporary GS-5 Computer Assistant. He will be entering graduate school this fall at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. Tim is working on developing and getting online the I&M Program library and digital image collection.

The Board of Directors (BOD) recently conducted a conference call to discuss, among other items, new hires for the I&M Program. Hiring staff continues to be a challenge for the Program in light of uncertainty about future year budgets. The BOD decided to continue the process to recruit two GS-7 Term Bio-Technicians (this decision and action was actually initiated several months back; a certificate of eligibles has been received by the I&M Program). Upon further discussion, the BOD decided to begin preparing the paperwork to hire a permanent Administrative Assistant (versus a term position), but filling the position would be contingent on FY07 funds. A similar course of action was agreed to for a permanent Plant Ecologist and a permanent Aquatic Ecologist.

Assistance to Parks: I&M Program staff are available to assist parks with field work and special projects as time allows. The Program (along with Dr. Bob Gitzen of the U. of Missouri) has recently assisted Badlands NP with monitoring swift fox den sites. In July the Program will conduct northern goshawk breeding surveys at Mt. Rushmore NMEM. And the Program anticipates assisting Wind Cave NP with prairie dog surveys this summer. Please contact Dan Licht if you are in need of inventory or monitoring assistance.